

State Legislation Restricting Judicial Consideration of Foreign or Religious Law, 2010-2012

April 8, 2013

Between 2010 and 2012, lawmakers in at least 32 states introduced bills to restrict the circumstances in which state courts can consider foreign or religious laws in their decisions. During this period, six states – Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Tennessee – enacted such bills into law. The Oklahoma law, which explicitly banned judicial consideration of [Islamic law \(or sharia\)](#), was struck down in 2010 when a federal district court ruled that the law infringed upon Muslims’ constitutional rights. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court’s decision on the Oklahoma law in January 2012. The other five states still have their restrictions on judicial consideration of foreign or religious law on the books.

The laws enacted in Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, South Dakota and Tennessee have broader, more neutral language than the 2010 Oklahoma law and do not mention sharia or other religious laws by name. Indeed, only 21 of the 92 bills introduced between 2010 and 2012 cite sharia or other religious laws directly. The text of many of the remaining 71 bills is similar or identical to model legislation known as “American Laws for American Courts” (ALAC). The template was drafted by David Yerushalmi, a New York attorney who has become a leading anti-sharia spokesman, and is promoted by the American Public Policy Alliance, an advocacy organization that works with state legislators on public policy initiatives. According to the organization’s [website](#), the model law is intended to ensure that Americans’ constitutional rights are not infringed by state courts’ consideration of foreign or religious laws, including sharia.

Click on a state to read about the legislation proposed or enacted there to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state court decisions.

Alabama

Between 2010 and 2012, Alabama lawmakers introduced at least **seven** state constitutional amendments to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. Five bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, while two explicitly banned consideration of sharia. At the end of 2012, five bills had died in committee and two were indefinitely postponed.

Bill Details

[SB 61](#) (“American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Amendment”)

Introduced: March 1, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: indefinitely postponed

[SB 62](#)

Introduced: March 1, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of sharia

Status: died in committee

[HB 597](#)

Introduced: May 3, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of sharia

Status: died in committee

[HB 607](#) (“American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Amendment”)

Introduced: May 4, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 33](#) (“American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Amendment”):

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2012

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 40](#) (“American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Amendment”):

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2012

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 84](#) (“American and Alabama Laws for Alabama Courts Amendment”)

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2012

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: indefinitely postponed

Alaska

Between 2010 and 2012, Alaska lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The measure contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation and died in committee.

Bill Details

HB 88

Introduced: Jan. 18, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Arizona

Between 2010 and 2012, Arizona lawmakers introduced at least **six** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. In April 2011, Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law a bill banning enforcement of any foreign law that violates the U.S. or Arizona constitutions. The measure had passed both chambers of the state legislature by large majorities. The other five bills – two of which explicitly mentioned [sharia](#), [canon law](#), [halakhah \(Jewish law\)](#) and karma – died in committee.

Bill Details

[SB 1026](#)

Introduced: Jan. 11, 2010

Content: banned judicial consideration of any “religious sectarian law,” including “sharia law, canon law, halacha and karma”

Status: died in committee

[HB 2379](#)

Introduced: Jan. 25, 2010

Content: banned judicial consideration of any “religious sectarian law,” including “sharia law, canon law, halacha and karma”

Status: died in committee

[SCR 1010](#)

Introduced: Jan. 11, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures”

Status: died in committee

[HCR 2033](#)

Introduced: Jan. 31, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment restricting judicial consideration of the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures”

Status: died before first reading

[HB 2582](#)

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2011

Content: prohibited use of foreign law or any “body of religious sectarian law” in court decisions, except for laws derived from the “Anglo-American legal tradition”

Status: died in committee

[HB 2064](#)

Introduced: Feb. 14, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the Senate 22-6 on April 5, 2011; passed by the House 38-19 on April 7, 2011; signed into law as [Title 12, Ch. 22, Art. 1](#) on April 12, 2011

Arkansas

Between 2010 and 2012, Arkansas lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. One bill contained language similar or identical to the model ALAC legislation. Both bills died in committee.

Bill Details

SB 97

Introduced: Jan. 20, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

SJR 10

Introduced: Feb. 9, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment limiting application of foreign laws “for the purpose of protecting rights and privileges granted under the United States Constitution and the Arkansas Constitution”

Status: died in committee

Florida

Between 2010 and 2012, Florida lawmakers introduced at least **five** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. All five bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. However, two of the bills would have applied only to family law cases, such as those involving the dissolution of a marriage or the custody of children. In 2012, one of the family law bills passed the House but stalled in the Senate. The other four bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[SB 1962](#) (“American and Florida Laws for Florida Courts Act”)

Introduced: Feb. 12, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 1294](#)

Introduced: Feb. 22, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HB 1273](#)

Introduced: March 4, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 1360](#)

Introduced: Dec. 22, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language; applied only to family law cases

Status: died in committee

[HB 1209](#)

Introduced: Jan. 4, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language; applied only to family law cases

Status: passed by the House 92-24 on March 1, 2012; died in committee in the Senate

Georgia

Between 2010 and 2012, Georgia lawmakers introduced at least **four** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. Three bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The fourth bill, a proposed amendment to the state constitution, banned recognition or enforcement of foreign or religious law by any state political entity or court. All four bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[HB 45](#) (“American Laws for Georgia Courts Act”)

Introduced: Jan. 24, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 51](#) (“American Laws for Georgia Courts Act”)

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HB 242](#) (“American Laws for Georgia Courts Act”)

Introduced: Feb. 15, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SR 926](#)

Introduced: Feb. 17, 2012

Content: constitutional amendment banning recognition or enforcement of “a religious system, belief, code, or ethnic or tribal custom or practice” – including “lashing, flogging, stoning” and “[p]rejudicial treatment of women” – by any state political entity or court

Status: died in committee

Idaho

In 2010, the Idaho legislature passed a **resolution** requesting that the U.S. Congress pass legislation to prohibit the use of “foreign or international law” by domestic courts and prevent foreign entities from having authority over domestic activities. The resolution does not have the force of law, and the U.S. Congress has not acted on its recommendations.

Bill Details

[HCR 44](#)

Introduced: Feb. 17, 2010

Content: requested that Congress prohibit the use of foreign law by domestic courts and prevent “foreign entities from having authority over activities within the United States”

Status: passed by the House 50-17 on March 4, 2010; passed by the Senate by voice vote on March 25, 2010; sent to the U.S. Secretary of State on March 29, 2010

Indiana

Between 2010 and 2012, Indiana lawmakers introduced at least **seven** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. All the bills contain language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Only one of the measures advanced beyond committee, passing the Senate in 2011 but later dying in a House committee.

Bill Details

HB 1078

Introduced: Jan. 5, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

SB 298

Introduced: Jan. 6, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

SJR 16

Introduced: Jan. 18, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment using ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

SB 520

Introduced: Jan. 18, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the Senate 50-0 on Feb. 17, 2011; died in committee in the House

SB 36

Introduced: Jan. 4, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

SB 90

Introduced: Jan. 4, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

HB 1166

Introduced: Jan. 9, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Iowa

Between 2010 and 2012, Iowa lawmakers introduced at least **five** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. One bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Another bill – a proposed amendment to the state constitution – explicitly banned sharia. All five bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[HF 2313](#)

Introduced: Feb. 5, 2010

Content: banned judicial consideration of foreign law and sources other than the U.S. Constitution and Iowa's constitution and legal code

Status: died in committee

[HF 489](#)

Introduced: March 2, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HJR 14](#)

Introduced: March 3, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of “international law or Sharia law”

Status: died in committee

[HF 575](#) (“Iowa Freedom and Sovereignty Act”)

Introduced: March 8, 2011

Content: prohibited foreign and religious law from being used in the state if it conflicted with the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. or Iowa constitutions

Status: died in committee

[SB 2198](#) (“Iowa Freedom and Sovereignty Act”)

Introduced: Feb. 15, 2012

Content: prohibited foreign and religious law from being used in the state if it conflicted with the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. or Iowa constitutions

Status: died in committee

Kansas

Between 2010 and 2012, Kansas lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. In May 2012, Gov. Sam Brownback signed into law a bill containing language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Both legislative chambers had passed the measure by overwhelming majorities. The other bill, which also contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model, was introduced and passed by the Kansas House of Representatives but later died in a Senate committee.

Bill Details

HB 2087

Introduced: Jan. 25, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 122-2 on March 30, 2011; died in committee in the Senate

SB 79

Introduced: Jan. 31, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 122-0 on March 21, 2012; passed by the Senate 33-3 on May 11, 2012; signed into law May 21, 2012

Kentucky

Between 2010 and 2012, Kentucky lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill, which contains language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, died in committee.

Bill Details

[HB 386](#)

Introduced: Feb. 9, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Louisiana

Between 2010 and 2012, Louisiana lawmakers introduced **two** nearly identical bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bills, which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, were approved in both chambers of the legislature by overwhelming majorities and were signed into law by Gov. Bobby Jindal in summer 2010. Per Louisiana custom, the bill passed last by the legislature is the one officially codified in the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Jindal also signed into law a **third** bill related to religious law. It requires issuers of financial securities to disclose whether a security is subject to any kind of religious law or custom. If it is, the religious law or custom must be identified and its effects on the activities of the issuer or the purchaser must be described.

Bill Details

[HB 785](#)

Introduced: March 29, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the Senate 28-2 on June 11, 2010; passed by the House 98-0 on June 16, 2010; signed into law June 29, 2010, as [Act No. 714](#); codified as Section 1 of Chapter 1 of Code Title I of Code Book IV of Title 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, also referred to as [R.S. 9:6001](#)

[SB 460](#)

Introduced: March 29, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 87-0 on June 15, 2010; passed by the Senate 36-0 on June 16, 2010; signed into law July 2, 2010, as [Act No. 886](#)

[SB 757](#)

Introduced: April 26, 2012

Content: requires issuers of financial securities to disclose whether a security is subject to any kind of religious law or custom

Status: passed by the Senate 32-1 on May 1, 2012; passed by the House 94-0 on May 22, 2012; signed into law on May 31, 2012 as [Act No. 369](#)

Maine

Between 2010 and 2012, Maine lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation as well as a statement that it is based on a [2010 Tennessee law](#). The bill died in committee.

Bill Details

[HP 811 / LD 1076](#) (“An Act To Protect Maine Laws under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine”)

Introduced: March 15, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Michigan

Between 2010 and 2012, Michigan lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The identical bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Both bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[HB 4769](#) (“Restriction of Application of Foreign Laws Act”)

Introduced: June 16, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 701](#) (“Restriction of Application of Foreign Laws Act”)

Introduced: Sept. 27, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Minnesota

Between 2010 and 2012, Minnesota lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill, which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, was introduced and then withdrawn on the same day.

Bill Details

[SF 2281](#)

Introduced: March 5, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: withdrawn

Mississippi

Between 2010 and 2012, Mississippi lawmakers introduced at least **four** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts, all of which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Two of the bills explicitly mentioned sharia. All four bills died in committee.

Bill Details

HB 301

Introduced: Jan. 4, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language but explicitly mentioned sharia

Status: died in committee

HB 525

Introduced: Jan. 10, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

HB 2

Introduced: Jan. 30, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

HB 698

Introduced: Feb. 20, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language but explicitly mentioned sharia

Status: died in committee

Missouri

Between 2010 and 2012, Missouri lawmakers introduced at least **six** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. Five bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The sixth bill, a proposed amendment to the state constitution, explicitly banned sharia. All six bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[SB 308](#)

Introduced: Feb. 21, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HJR 31](#)

Introduced: Feb. 24, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of sharia or the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures”

Status: died in committee

[HB 708](#)

Introduced: Feb. 28, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 102-51 on April 20, 2011; died in committee

[HB 768](#)

Introduced: March 3, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 676](#) (“Civil Liberties Defense Act”)

Introduced: Jan. 17, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HB 1512](#) (“Civil Liberties Defense Act”)

Introduced: Jan. 25, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 110-42 on March 29, 2012; died in committee in the Senate

Nebraska

Between 2010 and 2012, Nebraska lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The bill died in committee.

Bill Details

[LB 647](#)

Introduced: Jan. 19, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

New Hampshire

Between 2010 and 2012, New Hampshire lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill prohibited any state tribunal from enforcing any foreign law if doing so would violate federal or state constitutional rights, unless the parties involved had previously agreed to use foreign laws in a written contract or agreement. The bill was passed by the House but later died in a Senate committee.

Bill Details

[HB 1422](#)

Introduced: Nov. 22, 2011

Content: restricted enforcement of foreign law unless the parties involved had previously agreed to its use in a written contract

Status: passed by the House on Feb. 22, 2012; died in committee in the Senate

New Jersey

Between 2010 and 2012, New Jersey lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The identical bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The first bill was proposed in the 2010-2011 legislative session and died in committee. It was reintroduced in the 2012-2013 session, but the bill's sponsor later withdrew it from consideration.

Bill Details

[AB 3496](#)

Introduced: Nov. 15, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[AB 919](#)

Introduced: Jan. 10, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: withdrawn

New Mexico

Between 2010 and 2012, New Mexico lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bills – amendments to the state constitution – were identical and explicitly mentioned sharia. Both bills died in committee.

Bill Details

[SJR 18](#)

Introduced: Feb. 17, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration or application of sharia

Status: died in committee

[SJR 14](#)

Introduced: Jan. 25, 2012

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration or application of sharia

Status: died in committee

North Carolina

Between 2010 and 2012, North Carolina lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. The bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The bill died in committee.

Bill Details

[H 640](#) (“An Act to Protect Rights and Privileges Granted under the North Carolina and United States Constitutions in the Application of Foreign Law”)

Introduced: April 5, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Oklahoma

Between 2010 and 2012, Oklahoma lawmakers introduced at least **three** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law by state courts. In May 2010, overwhelming majorities of both legislative chambers passed a measure to place a proposed state constitutional amendment on the ballot for approval by Oklahoma voters. The amendment, which sought to ban judicial consideration of international law and sharia, was approved in a statewide referendum in November 2010. However, after a Muslim resident filed suit alleging violation of the right to free exercise of religion, the amendment was struck down by a federal judge. The decision was later upheld by the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Another bill, which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, passed the House but died in committee in the Senate. A third bill, which did not initially address foreign law, was later amended to prohibit the enforcement of foreign law in cases where allowing it would provide a defense for committing a misdemeanor or felony. It was passed by the Senate but later died in committee in the House.

Bill Details

[HJR 1056](#) (“Save Our State Amendment”)

Introduced: Feb. 1, 2010

Content: placed on the ballot a constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures,” including “international law and Sharia Law”

Status: passed by the House 82-10 on May 18, 2010; passed by the Senate 41-2 on May 24, 2010; approved by 70% of voters in a statewide referendum on Nov. 2, 2010 ([Question 755](#)); struck down by a district court on Nov. 29, 2010 – see *Awad v. Ziriox*, No. 10 Civ. 1186, 754 F.Supp.2d 1298 (W.D. Okla. 2010); an appeals court upheld the ruling on Jan. 10, 2012 – see *Awad v. Ziriox*, No. 10-6273, 670 F.3d 1111 (10th Cir. 2012)

[HB 1552](#)

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed 76-3 by the House on March 17, 2011; died in committee in the Senate

[SB 671](#)

Introduced: Feb. 7, 2011

Content: banned state enforcement of foreign law in cases where allowing it would provide a defense for committing a misdemeanor or felony

Status: passed by the Senate 40-3 on May 24, 2012; died in committee in the House

Pennsylvania

Between 2010 and 2012, Pennsylvania lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. The bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The bill died in committee.

Bill Details

HB 2029

Introduced: Nov. 18, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

South Carolina

Between 2010 and 2012, South Carolina lawmakers introduced at least **three** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. Two identical bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. A third bill – a proposed amendment to the state constitution – explicitly banned sharia. All three bills died in committee.

Bill Details

S 1387

Introduced: April 22, 2010

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures,” including “Sharia Law” and “conventions or treaties, whether or not the United States is a party”

Status: died in committee

S 444

Introduced: Jan. 26, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

H 3490

Introduced: Jan. 27, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

South Dakota

Between 2010 and 2012, South Dakota lawmakers introduced at least **four** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. In March 2012, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law a bill prohibiting state courts or other state agencies from enforcing “any provisions of any religious code.” Three other bills had been introduced previously and died in committee. Two of the bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, while a third proposed an amendment to the state constitution that would have banned courts from considering foreign or religious law in their decisions.

Bill Details

[HB 1253](#)

Introduced: Jan. 26, 2012

Content: banned state enforcement of “any provisions of any religious code”

Status: passed by the House 47-22 on Feb. 14, 2012; passed by the Senate 29-4 on Feb. 28, 2012; signed into law on March 19, 2012, as [Ch. 19-8-7](#)

[SB 136](#)

Introduced: Jan. 23, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[SB 201](#)

Introduced: Feb. 1, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

[HJR 1004](#)

Introduced: Jan. 25, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial enforcement of foreign laws or any “foreign religious or moral code with the force of law”

Status: died in committee

Tennessee

Between 2010 and 2012, Tennessee lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. In May 2010, Gov. Phil Bredesen signed into law a bill containing language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. The bill had passed unanimously in both chambers of the state legislature. An identical companion bill was introduced in the Senate, but it was eventually withdrawn once the House version of the bill was passed by both chambers.

In addition, **two** bills that criminalized “sharia organizations” were simultaneously introduced as companion bills in the Senate and House in 2011. An amended version of the House bill that omitted any mention of sharia and instead referred to “terrorist organizations” was enacted into law in June 2011, and the Senate bill was withdrawn.

Bill Details

[HB 3768](#)

Introduced: Feb 2, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: passed by the House 96-0 on April 26, 2010; passed by the Senate 32-0 on May 13, 2010; signed into law on May 27, 2010, as [Pub. Ch. 983](#)

[SB 3740](#)

Introduced: Jan. 28, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: withdrawn

[HB 1353](#) (“Material Support to Designated Entities Act of 2011”)

Introduced: Feb. 16, 2011

Content: criminalized “Sharia organizations,” defined as two or more persons conspiring or acting in support of sharia

Status: amended on May 20, 2011, to omit mention of sharia and instead refer to “terrorist organizations”; signed into law on June 21, 2011, as [Pub. Ch. 497](#)

[SB 1028](#) (“Material Support to Designated Entities Act of 2011”)

Introduced: Feb. 16, 2011

Content: criminalized “Sharia organizations,” defined as two or more persons conspiring or acting in support of sharia

Status: withdrawn

Texas

Between 2010 and 2012, Texas lawmakers introduced at least **seven** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. Two bills contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. A third bill, a proposed amendment to the state constitution, banned courts from considering or applying “a religious or cultural law.” Another bill prohibited courts from getting involved in “religious doctrinal interpretation or application.” A fifth bill barred rulings based on any foreign law not recognized by Texas or the U.S. All five bills died in committee. In addition, two other bills that did not originally concern foreign law were briefly amended to contain language similar or identical to ALAC. However, the language was removed before the bills were enacted into law.

Bill Details

HJR 57

Introduced: Jan. 11, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of “a religious or cultural law”

Status: died in committee

HB 911

Introduced: Jan. 26, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

HB 999

Introduced: Jan. 31, 2011

Content: barred courts from “religious doctrinal interpretation or application”

Status: died in committee

HB 1240

Introduced: Feb. 10, 2011

Content: barred courts or other adjudicators from ruling based on any foreign law not recognized by Texas or the U.S.

Status: died in committee

HB 3027

Introduced: March 10, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

HB 274

Amendment 6, containing ALAC model language, added May 9, 2011 by the House; bill passed by the House on May 10, 2011; ALAC language removed by the Senate on May 24, 2011

HB 79

Amendment 12, containing ALAC model language, added on June 21, 2011 by the House; ALAC language removed by the House on June 22, 2011

Utah

Between 2010 and 2012, Utah lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. The bill, which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, died at the end of the 2010 legislative session.

Bill Details

[HB 296](#) (“Choice of Law in Utah Courts”)

Introduced: Feb. 5, 2010

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died at the end of the House session on March 11, 2010

Virginia

Between 2010 and 2012, Virginia lawmakers introduced at least **two** bills to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. One bill contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation. Both bills were carried over to the 2013 legislative session.

Bill Details

HB 631

Introduced: Jan. 11, 2012

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: carried over to 2013 legislative session; in committee

HB 825

Introduced: Jan. 11, 2012

Content: barred state courts and agencies from basing rulings on foreign law, except to the extent required or authorized by the U.S. or Virginia constitutions

Status: carried over to 2013 legislative session; in committee

West Virginia

Between 2010 and 2012, West Virginia lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. The bill, which contained language similar or identical to the ALAC model legislation, died in committee.

Bill Details

[HB 3220](#)

Introduced: Feb. 21, 2011

Content: used ALAC model language

Status: died in committee

Wyoming

Between 2010 and 2012, Wyoming lawmakers introduced at least **one** bill to restrict the use of foreign or religious law in state courts. The bill, a proposed amendment to the state constitution, explicitly prohibited judicial consideration of sharia and foreign law. The bill died in committee.

Bill Details

[HJR 8](#) (“Sharia law”)

Introduced: Jan. 20, 2011

Content: constitutional amendment banning judicial consideration of the “legal precepts of other nations or cultures,” including “international law and Sharia law”

Status: died in committee